

Message Text

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70

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SEC-03 SS-20 EUR-25 SCA-01

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07 JUSE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MC-02 COME-00 EB-11 FAA-00

DOT-00 SCS-03 FBIE-00 DEAE-00 CAB-09 DRC-01 /134 W

----- 061292

R 261610Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7907

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV CS

SUBJ: VESCO AIRCRAFT CONFISCATION IN SAN ANTONIO

WIDELY PLAYED IN SAN JOSE PAPERS

1. AN AP STORY OUT OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, DATED AUGUST 22, DESCRIBED THE CONFISCATION BY U.S. CUSTOMS OF "AN AIRCRAFT RELATED TO ROBERT VESCO". PLANE REPORTEDLY TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BECAUSE IT WAS ABOUT TO ILLEGALLY TRANSPORT MUNITIONS TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY. THE AIRCRAFT WAS IDENTIFIED AS BEING OWNED BY THOMAS PATRICK RICHARDSON, AN ASSOCIATE OF VESCO, AND HAD BEEN IN SAN ANTONIO FOR ROUTINE REPAIRS. THE SAME DISPATCH SAID THAT VESCO IN A LETTER TO THE COSTA RICAN MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY PREVIOUSLY CHARACTERIZED THE CHARGES AS "ABSURD AND RIDUCULOUS."

THE EMBASSY INDEPENDENTLY LEARNED OF THIS CONFISCATION OF A VESCO-RELATED AIRCRAFT ON AUGUST 22 FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE WHO SAID THAT THE AIRPLANE WAS TO HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO A VESCO PILOT IN MEXICO CITY, WHO WAS TO HAVE BROUGHT IT TO SAN JOSE. THIS SOURCE DESCRIBED THE AIRCRAFT AS THE LAST REMAINING OF WHAT HAD BEEN VESCO'S AIRPLANE FLEET. HE ALSO
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SAID THAT VESCO IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF

PURCHASING A NEW LEAR JET IN THE U.S., WHICH WILL
SOON BE BROUGHT INTO COSTA RICA UNDER A PHONY
NAME AND REGISTERED AS PART OF THE EQUIPMENT USED
BY TAXI AEROES, A SMALL COSTA RICAN AIRLINE OWNED
BY PAT HATCH. THE SOURCE DESCRIBED HATCH AS
HAVING A REPUTATION AS A SMUGGLER AND WITH POSSIBLE
NARCOTICS CONNECTIONS.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE FULL DETAILS OF THIS ACTION BY
U.S. CUSTOMS.
LANE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT DETENTION, PRESS COMMENTS, CUSTOMS SEIZURES, MUNITIONS CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANJO03245
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740235-0854
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740818/aaaaaotj.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS, US, (VESCO, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005